

Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-10 EB-03 L-02

DRC-01 RSC-01 /048 W

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R 131116Z SEP 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3764

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T CAIRO 2737

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN WHEAT REQUIREMENTS

REF: CAIRO 2504, JIDDA 3702

1. AT SOCIAL EVENT ON SEPTEMBER 11, SAUDI AMBASSADOR NAZIR MENTIONED SAUDI ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR SUMED PROJECT (CAIRO 2727). HE ALSO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT USG HAD AGREED TO DO "SOMETHING" TO HELP EGYPT IN MEETING ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR ONE AND ONE-HALF MILLION TONS OF WHEAT DURING THE CURRENT YEAR. I TOLD NAZIR THAT I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY UNITED STATES COMMITMENT ON WHEAT FOR EGYPT AND ASKED HIM IF GOE BELIEVED THAT SUCH A COMMITMENT HAD BEEN MADE. NAZIR PROFESSED LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ON EGYPTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION AND SAID HE HAD RECEIVED HIS INFORMATION FROM HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF HIS GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED EGYPTIANS, ALTHOUGH HIS EMBASSY IN CAIRO HAD NOT DONE SO.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE NAZIR'S DISCLAIMERS, I AM CONCERNED THAT SAUDIS MAY HAVE LED EGYPTIANS TO BELIEVE THAT USG HAS AGREED TO TAKE STEPS TO HELP EGYPT MEET ITS WHEAT

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IMPORT REQUIREMENTS. THIS COULD LEAD TO SOME SERIOUS

MISUNDERSTANDINGS. IF OUR REPLY TO REFTELS IS NEGATIVE
OR MEETS ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF EGYPTIAN REQUIREMENTS,
I CAN SEE MERIT IN WAITING ONE OR TWO WEEKS UNTIL
INITIAL RESPONSE IS RECEIVED FROM GOE ON SUMED. I BE-
LIEVE WE SHOULD NOT WAIT TOO LONG, HOWEVER, TO MAKE OUR
POSITION CLEAR TO BOTH SAUDIS AND EGYPTIANS.
WILEY

SECRET

NNN

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DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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